

Determining Central Idea

Directions: Complete the following chart to determine the central (main) idea of a text.

Copy down the title, headings, sub-headings, bold and italicized words in the document:

What is the PURPOSE of the text?

How is the text STRUCTURED?

What are the three MOST important points being made in the text?

1.

2.

3.

SO...

What is the CENTRAL idea of the text? (Write your three main points into one complete, concise sentence)

SUMMARIZING A NON-FICTIONAL TEXT

In one or two words, who or what is the text about? (You can usually tell from the title)

What are the 3 MOST important things we learn about this topic from this text?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What is the CENTRAL idea of the text? Write this in ONE sentence.

Using your CENTRAL idea as your topic sentence and the 3 most important things above that as your details, write a one-paragraph summary of the text on the lines below.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.